

**UCB-POR Workshop  
June 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> – ICC Offices, Chicago  
Meeting Notes**

**ComEd & Ameren's responses to Bill & Rate Ready Assumptions**

**Ameren changes:**

- Consolidated documents
- Show on/off peak kW - zero suppress if no value (DS3 below 400)
- No substantive changes
- Update document to reflect input from Standards Group (CPWG)
- 824 Bill Ready:
  - First that file received.
  - Second to acknowledge file presented on bill.
  - Design issue for CPWG (process will occur, methodology to be determined).
- Rate code effective date – web portal screening for appropriate number of days.

**ComEd Changes:**

- Support account number-only enrollment
- Indicator values for bill option fields – UCB, dual, SBO
- Do not accept >400, reject.
  - (need new rejection reason)
- Drop – new section (clarification)
- Clarified line items & sequencing.
  - Previously 8, now 7.
- Acknowledgment charges are billed
- Will remove Cancel/Rebill section from document & replace with subsequent Cancel/Rebill document.

**Discussion of ComEd & Ameren's system implementation time & cost estimates**

- Ameren – June implementation & March testing.
- ComEd – same schedule as outlined.
- Is additional breakdown info available on ComEd costs?
  - Cost estimate addresses volume issue
  - Infrastructure needed to adj. to EDI & volumes.
- ComEd expects to file a rider.

**Follow-up from prior billing discussions:**

- ComEd - 32 characters per line (bill format redesign may potentially expand number)

- Ameren - 32 characters per line (in assumptions)
- Standard bill descriptions
  - No, free form text, customer referred to contract language
- Exact times for the return of 867's
  - ComEd – example: 3 business days; 9:00 am Monday sent, due back noon Thursday?
  - Ameren – information to be provided
  - Other markets, 3 days.
  - 867 should denote date by which it should be sent back.
    - RES handbook should detail time.

### **NAESB Update**

- Ray McQuade mtg.
- Torsten will put standards on website.
- Areas to review
  - Market participant interaction
  - Billing & Payments
  - Distribution Company/Supplier disputes
  - Electronic Delivery mechanism
  - Internet Electronic Transport
  - Customer Information
  - Customer Enrollments, Drops, & Acct. Info change
  - Billing Service Agreement

### **Stand-alone UCB**

- Without tying to POR
- Reliant - interest in stand-alone POR
  - With SBO
- PEPCO interested in stand-alone UCB
- Texas – Retailers (RES) purchase receivables w/o UCB
  - Utilities factor receivables
- How do utilities disconnect service for receivables if they are not billing?

### **Purchase of Uncollectible Receivables**

- No immediate interest.

### **Retail Choice & Referral Programs**

- Discussion of Ameren concept
- Conn. & NY offer similar type referral programs
- CUB – Don't overlook EE on high bill complaints for sake of choice.

### **Draft Tariff Language**

#### **Ameren - Cost Recovery:**

- Still formulating methodology

- Enhance billing system & recover costs to not financially discourage competition.
- Recover from all delivery service customers over 3 year period – less than 10 cents per month est.
- Undetermined at this point which costs are internal & external.
- Adjust annually.

#### **Ameren – Outline:**

- Ameren considering offering a single weighted average discount rate.
- Formula: historical uncollectibles & incremental on-going admin costs.
- Timing of payments = consistency w/SBO provision
  - 24 days after date of bill / Residential
  - 18 days after date of bill / Non-residential
  - Remit rolling basis
- CUB – What is the cost to RES' to enter market?
  - System costs
  - Marketing sales
- RES' do not have to remain on UCB/POR program for 12 month – just 60 day notice. 60 day notice for start-up.
- RES' cannot move an existing customer to UCB/POR if customer has arrears over 60 days.
  - Question - Would this apply at start-up or as an on-going provision? Response: On-going.
- Discount Rate - Using higher of Ameren weighted historical system average or actual RES experience.
- Adjust reconciliations, build in a credit or debit adder to make the utility whole to benefit delivery service customers.
- Comments – There is no RES-specific discount rates in other POR markets.
- Preference for single discount rate.
  - Duquesne – special watchdog provision for excessive bad debt.
- Preference – all in/all out.
- RES did not realize bad debt was in base rates.
- Suggestion - Bad debts be removed from base rates and should be a rider as in other markets.

#### **ComEd:**

- Still considering multiple discount rates.
  - Single family, multi family
- Discount rate – set every year, historical bad debt rate
  - Once market is established, set discount based on market experience.
- Plan is to have a tariff, addendum, business process, etc.

- Dispute resolution – section will be added. Similar to SBO.
- 400 kW issue – one last POR bill before removal.
  - To go to CPWG
- Payment dates
  - Day Sales Outstanding (DSO) based methodology when ComEd receives money from customer, system wide.
- Cost recovery to be allocated across customer base.

#### **ComEd's Response to Questions:**

- Will add an availability section
- Do not intend to include definitions – plan to place in terms and conditions.
- Changes will be addressed in billing processes.
- “Relevant billing information”
  - Catch all language
- All or none language
- Lighting

#### **Draft Tariff Language-Billing Service Agreements**

- ComEd
  - Addendum
  - More tariff sheets
  - Will try to file tariffs in August
- Ameren
  - Billing Services Agreement
  - Supplier Terms and Conditions
  - Surcharge for DS customers will be in Miscellaneous Charges tariff
  - File two tariffs
  - Will try to file tariffs in August
- Continued discussions on tariffs and discount rates. Conference call in two weeks.

#### **Cancel / Rebill**

- Discussion of follow-up document.
- Review document with entire RES group on next billing group call.